

d e r e k b e a u l i e u

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derek beaulieu

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A collaborative edition with
a then friend in Brampton,
Ontario, *William S.*

Burroughs: Ghost of Steel was
produced in an edition of 26
signed copies. Each page
was designed and laid out
in MS Publisher, printed at
home, folded and inserted
into hand-printed covers
and sewn using needle and
thread. Most copies were
given away, I haven't seen
one in years. That same

radical paper press

2020



wenty-three
years ago, I
published my
first chapbook.

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format – printed at home,
folded and assembled by
hand, sewn and given away

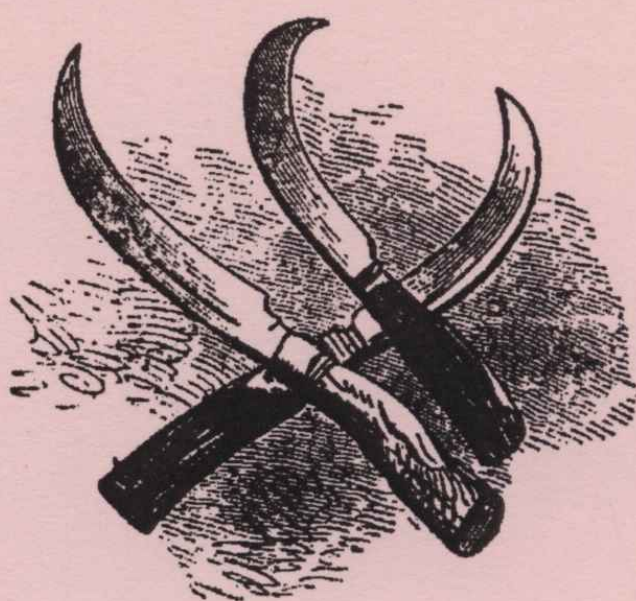
– has remained my *modus operandi* ever since. *William S. Burroughs: Ghost of Steel* became the first of 268 editions that I published through the housepress imprint, followed by over 350 more under No Press. For 23 years I've averaged a publication every two weeks – each one made by hand as a means of distributing the news to a fluctuating community of readers. Writing is a public act, we must learn (even the most introverted of us) to share our work with a readership. See our work as worth sharing, our voices as worth hearing. It doesn't have to be a huge public gesture; it could be 10 copies among friends. Share. There are a growing number of online

print-on-demand publishers like Lulu and Blurb, and many photocopy shops will do collation and binding – but those are far from the only options. Anyone who has a desktop printer or access to a photocopier (or a typewriter, or a silkscreen or rubberstamp letters or any number of intriguing possibilities) can produce her own work. Paper, printer, stapler, scissors. A challenge to my peers: publish your own work. Start a small press. Find the material that your colleagues are making that impresses you and publish it in pamphlets, in leaflets, in chapbooks and broadsides, posters and ephemera. It is all too easy to rely on other people to do the work for

you – to allow the means of distribution to remain with book publishers, magazines and journals. Small press builds community through gifts and exchange, through consideration and generosity, through the creative interplay and dialogue with each other's work. Small press publishing allows authors to present their work in a way that physically responds to the content – texture, size, shape, colour and binding all become aesthetic decisions that the author herself can shape. The internet is rife with instructions on how to hand bind books. Make stuff, hand it out, talk to people. You are out of excuses.

Derek Beaulieu is the author/editor of over twenty collections of poetry, prose, and criticism, including two volumes of his selected work, *Please, No More Poetry* (2013) and *Konzeptuelle Arbeiten* (2017). His most recent volume of fiction, *a, A Novel* was published by Paris's Jean Boite Editions. Beaulieu has exhibited his visual work across Canada, the United States, and Europe and has won multiple local and national awards for his teaching and dedication to students. Derek Beaulieu holds a PhD in Creative Writing from Roehampton University and is the Director of Literary Arts at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

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